

RE: The effectiveness of Closed Captioning

Have you ever tried to watch a sporting event on TV? The person doing the CC is usually so far behind the action that what is being typed is irrelevant. Most Stories go unfinished. It would be beneficial to have the person typing the cc be a sports fan that could decide which comments are relevant at that time.

The evening news prides itself on CC its reports. However even taped reports are CC poorly. Live reports are even worse. This varies from one news station to another. Some are better than others.

Any television show being rebroadcast on a network that purchased episodes will most of the time not caption the program, because it is too expensive. UPN for instance will not caption many episodes of Friends. Yet at the end of the show the announcer will say. "Captions sponsored by P&G"

Many children's shows are not captioned. I understand funding has been cut from this program. That will put Deaf Children at a disadvantage. Literacy is one of the items being taught to Deaf Children, at a strong pace. Making Deaf Children better readers in on the rise. Seeing print anywhere and everywhere is a teaching tool that is effective. For hearing children as well. Cutting funding here is discriminative to those children. They can no longer have the same luxury as a hearing child. You can teach a Deaf Child to read!

It seems we make allowances for all people these days. Better housing for those in wheel chairs, brail or vocal signage for the blind.... Yet the deaf community continues to struggle with non public ttys. No flashing lights at cross walks, lousy captions for

television. Disrespect from the community and its leaders.
Remember the Ohio political official who wanted to build a Deaf
Community on a parcel of land right next to the air port?
Because those people couldn't possibly mind the noise pollution!

I have found that the only time captions are done well is on
movies. Where there is no rush or live feed to deal with.
However most Deaf people must wait to see a first run movie at
home and not in the theaters because of the expense of cc them
for the theaters. And not all Movie production companies will
caption movies. Disney for example captions only a small part of
their movies.

All in all Captions are wonderful. If done properly. However
there seems to be this expense issue hanging over it that makes
people feel it's a more of a burden then a blessing for those who
need it. Therefore those who do the job who have no real
connection to it do a lousy job.